



Security Council

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Letter dated 28 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward the attached press release entitled "Ethiopia resumes deportation" issued today, 28 June 2001, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed Tahir **Baduri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press Release

Ethiopia resumes deportation

In serious violation of the Peace Agreement signed by the two countries, and relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Ethiopian Government has deported 722 Eritreans and one Ethiopian. The deportees arrived at the Mereb River on 25 June 2001. Most of the deportees are women, children and old people. Some suffer from serious disability.

Most of the deportees were rounded up from their homes and working places in Tigray and imprisoned in various places of detention for days before being deported. Some had been detained for as long as three years, including in places which were never visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The deportees were forced to leave behind members of their families and their belongings.

The deportation carried out by the Ethiopian authorities takes place at a time when much effort is exerted to normalize relations between, and to build confidence among, the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The Government of the State of Eritrea urges the international community in general and the partners of the Eritro-Ethiopian peace process in particular to condemn the latest violation of human rights conventions and international humanitarian laws as well as the comprehensive Peace Agreement between the two countries. It must be recognized that these violations seriously jeopardize the peace process.

Over the past years the Ethiopian Government has deported over 76,000 Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin.